

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information distributing apparatus comprising:
a reception unit for receiving information;
an information storage unit for storing therein said
5 received information;

a transmission unit for transmitting information stored
in said information storage unit to a designated providing
destination;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount
10 in accordance with additional information owned by said
transmitted information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing therein charge
amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit.

15 2. An information distributing apparatus comprising:
a reception unit for receiving information;
an information storage unit for storing therein said
received information;

a transmission unit for transmitting information stored
20 in said information storage unit to a designated providing
destination;

a reference information reception unit for receiving
reference information transmitted from said providing
destination;

25 a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount
in accordance with additional information owned by said
transmitted information and said received reference

information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to such
5 information related to the reference, which is produced at an arbitrary interval in the case that said providing destination refers to the additional information owned by the information transmitted to said designated providing destination, or
10 irrespective of such a fact that said providing destination does not refer to said additional information.

3. An information storing apparatus comprising:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing thereinto said
15 received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such information related to information which is requested to be referred among the information stored in said information storage unit; and

20 a reference control unit for providing information in response to said request, and also for producing a signal used to notify a reference of additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred.

25 4. An information storing/distributing apparatus comprising:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing thereinto said received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such information related to information which is requested to be referred among the information stored in said information storage unit;

a reference control unit for providing information in response to said request, and also for producing a signal used to notify a reference of additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount in accordance with additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred and also said reference information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to such information related to the reference, which is produced at an arbitrary interval in the case that said requesting destination refers to the additional information owned by the information transmitted to said designated requesting destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said requesting destination does not refer to said additional information.

5. An information providing system comprising:
an information storing/distributing apparatus including:
a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing therein
said received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such
information related to information which is requested to be
5 referred among the information stored in said information storage
unit;

a reference control unit for providing information
in response to said request, and also for producing a signal
used to notify a reference of additional information owned
10 by said information which is requested to be referred;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge
amount in accordance with additional information owned by said
information which is requested to be referred and also said
reference information; and

15 a charge data storage unit for storing therein
charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation
unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to
such information related to the reference, which is produced
20 at an arbitrary interval in the case that said requesting
destination refers to the additional information owned by the
information transmitted to said designated requesting
destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said requesting
destination does not refer to said additional information;

25 an information producing apparatus for producing
information which is provided via a network to said information
storing/distributing apparatus; and

an information reproducing apparatus for arbitrarily selecting the information saved in said information storing/distributing apparatus via the network to reproduce and display the arbitrarily and selectively received
5 information.

6. An information providing system comprising:
an information distributing apparatus including:
a reception unit for receiving information;
10 an information storage unit for storing therein
said received information;
a transmission unit for transmitting information
stored in said information storage unit to a designated providing
destination;
15 a reference information reception unit for receiving
reference information transmitted from said providing
destination;
a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge
amount in accordance with additional information owned by said
20 transmitted information and said received reference
information; and
a charge data storage unit for storing therein
charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation
unit;
25 wherein said reference information corresponds to
such information related to the reference, which is produced
at an arbitrary interval in the case that said providing

destination refers to the additional information owned by the information transmitted to said designated providing destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said providing destination does not refer to said additional information;

5 an information storing apparatus including:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing thereinto said received information;

10 a reference record storage unit for recording such information related to information which is requested to be referred among the information stored in said information storage unit; and

15 a reference control unit for providing information in response to said request, and also for producing a signal used to notify a reference of additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred;

an information producing apparatus for producing information which is provided via a network to said information storing/distributing apparatus; and

20 an information reproducing apparatus for arbitrarily selecting the information saved in said information storing/distributing apparatus via the network to reproduce and display the arbitrarily and selectively received information.

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